

# DUBUQUE COUNTY LIBRARY

COURT HOUSE  
DUBUQUE, IOWA

March 9th, 1951.

Dear Betty:

We enjoyed your article in the Des Moines Sunday Register. How come your picture was not in too.

We have our board organized and are going on as usual-- but we do have some questions from the article how come that you levy is different for the towns than the rural area-- is that according to the manual or is it because the towns have more service or what.

To how to you charge fine and what do you do with the fine money use it for incidentals or what? Or do you turn it over to the auditor each month?

Do you have access to any of the books in the County Superintendent office or does the county board of education maintain their own books?

We have the use of the three thousand volumes belonging to the county school library and have always used them. We have a separate accession book for them and also two drawers in the card file for these books.


I have been asked why the library is in Eldridge and not in Davenport by several people who have ideas about the county set-up. Are you able to answer that question?

Do you all live in Eldridge or do you commute to Davenport each day.

Do you attend the district meeting at Maquoketa ? or where do you go? It would be good to talk to you personally sometime.

Thank you for being so patient with all my questions.

Best wishes,

  
Catherine.



March 13, 1951

Dear Catherine,

I'll try to answer your questions of March 9 in the order in which they came.

1. There wasn't space for all the pictures they took, of course, so they used the ones that would best tell the story.
2. The levy is different in the towns than in the country because the 2 mill limit comes into effect in the towns before the per capita amount is reached in most cases. The tax is figured on the valuation in each taxable district; two mills is the top limit. Each taxable district pays its share independent in order that you will surely get what you need for running for the year, you should determine your total budget needs. Get your tax valuations from your county auditor. Figure 2 mills on each district (that means each town and the total farm area) and see how you come out. Your farm areas will of course carry their own weight; but some of your towns probably will not. Take your population served and divide it into your budget needs to find out how much per capita will have to be collected. You'll find that the per capita shares of the towns will probably be more than the 2 mill levy will collect - in the farm area, it will be less. You should then figure out what per capita rate you'll need in order to raise your total budget needs. This is probably as clear as mud; but if you don't understand it, I'll try to work it out for you at Maquoketa on the 27th of April. Yes, we are in the 6th District which meets at Maquoketa.
3. We charge a penny a day because it's the only way we can depend on to get the books back on time - even when we don't get around more than once in two weeks. Of course, if we can't make the trip - as is the case this week - we renew the books automatically. The fine money goes into a petty cash fund from which I purchase incidentals, getting a slip to cover the transaction each time. I make a petty cash report at each board meeting, too. Another way of handling it - and probably a better one - is to deposit your fine money with the county treasurer (or auditor, I'm not sure which it would be) regularly, and at each monthly meeting draw a warrant for petty cash - say \$10.00, or whatever you think you'll need - and then handle that in the same way I do our fund. Keep purchase slips for everything. When our collections amount to enough to make it worth while, I'm going to change this set-up, too. In the stations, they take postage money out of fines collected.
4. At the beginning of this school year, we borrowed about 1000 books from the county supt. office - we could have had them all (the recreational stuff, that is) but we didn't have time to put cards into the rest of them, and we were getting new books all the time anyway, so I just didn't think it was worth it. I don't know what buying the co. supt. is doing on that type of reading now since we've been operating. I haven't had time to have a good talk with him.
5. The Scott County Library headquarters are in Eldridge for two reasons. The first and most important one is that at the time we needed it, there was a vacant building available for rent. The second is that it is in the center of the county. The farm people on the board did not favor the idea of having their library in Davenport. The central location is fine; but because of the size of the town and the fact that transportation to and from Davenport is difficult, I think we've had more than usual difficulty in obtaining adequate help. The board now realizes that, too. I myself live in town and ~~xxxx~~



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drive back and forth every day. Our driver has a room here in town. Our clerical assistant lives in town, and our general assistant goes back and forth from Davenport every day.

I guess that covers the questions. Probably the one about the tax levy is not too clear; but I'll be glad to try again if you wish. Will you be at Maquoketa?

Sincerely,

Elizabeth B. Hage  
Librarian

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